

# The Daily News.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 30, 1866.

## Victor Hugo in English.

(From the N. Y. Evening Post.)

The following observations on HUGO's travels of "Les Travailleurs de la Mer," are from the pen of Gen. G. CURRIER.

Since 1830 no man has evinced more powerful originality in literature than Victor Hugo; no man has remained more completely himself. Like Victor Hugo or dislike him, accept or reject him, declare him to be the regenerator of the French language, or its destroyer—all that is a matter of taste or individual appreciation; parties are divided. I refrain from placing myself on either side. No one has had more imitators than Hugo. All the writers who were young in his youth, and a number of those who have followed, have sought to imitate him without success. Like Baudelaire and Rimbaud in the world of art, he has remained apart—a type to be respected, if not admired, and which it is indecorous to disfigure by any manner of travestiment.

This, however, has been done, voluntarily or involuntarily, by the translator of the edition of the "Travailleurs de la Mer," published in England, and here republished by Messrs. Harper & Brothers. Either through haste, ignorance of the French language, or an honest desire to outdo Hugo and correct him, he has presented that author to the public completely travestied and clad in the translator's English. In France is about the same thing as what is called "knowing French" in England. Notwithstanding I doubt whether Victor Hugo, though ignorant of English, would consent that *patte d'oie* should be translated as "goose foot," or that *patte d'outarde* should be translated as "goose leg." The cluster of wrinkles which meet at the corners of the eyes (I do not give this explanation for any over thirty) as the cartilage of the foot of a goose terminates at its tip. It is by an analogous image that the name of *patte d'oie* is given to the forest path radiating towards a common centre. In English, *crow's foot* is the term used to qualify this result of advancing years. Victor Hugo in comparing the *patte d'oie* of Raintane—graven upon his face by every vice—to a vulture's claw, uses a powerful image, and carries the blance of his own thought upon the tablet of the reader's mind, while in the comparison of the *patte d'oie* of Raintane to a vulture's claw, I can discover only a double platitudinal—that of the translation and that of Raintane's organ of locomotion.

Entire lines, four or five at a time, containing original and beautiful images, are sometimes suppressed, while additions have been made by the translator who, in exchange for Hugo's *satisfait*, generously bestows upon him comparisons whose age that author probably looked upon as entailing them to repose. Among these is that of a lion in the description of the storm. "Elle est de l'ouragan ayant la figure humaine." "She is morning with a human face." But, probably thinking that some ignorant Englishman had never heard of Aurora (with a capital A), the translator compassionately brings his mythological knowledge into play. Elsewhere expressions, similes, entire passages are completely made over in the taste of the translator, whose incontestable talent should have made him an author, but who is no translator.

Boileau very sensibly says: "Be a masochist, if your talent lies in that direction, rather than a servitor of the common *deus ex machina*." I will say more; be a writer rather than a fanciful and servile translator. What the public desire in Victor Hugo, what they pay for in Hugo's work given in English, not the offspring of the translator's brain.

I have not read above twenty entire pages of this translation; the quotations I make are from a few pages, cut open at hazard. I leave the public to judge whether they have been supplied with a translation of the "Travailleurs de la Mer," and whether they are able to form any judgment whatsoever of the translator's talent. I protest, and think that as regards taste as well as honesty, a translator should respect the author in his hands, and present him to the public as he is. Do not think that Hugo loses by it. I have seen a scrupulous, unamplified, yet graceful translation of his style, but to make such one it is necessary to be thoroughly acquainted with the French language.

The following are specimens of the new Hugo: French—*Il avait entre les deux yeux cette ferveur vertueuse de l'homme hardi et persévérant.* Translator—Between his eyes he had that proud vertical line, which indicates in a man boldness and perseverance.

Will some benevolent friend have the goodness to inform me what a vertical line is? Ride in French means to ride.

Mess. Lethierry, the owner of Derobette, Hugo's hero, being a "one-faring" man, is somewhat wanting in reverence. When making any oath which he considered a solemn bond upon his own honor he was, writes Hugo, in the habit of saying: "J'en donne ma parole d'honneur au bon Dieu." "I give my word of honor to the good God. An oath, if you will, an irreverent oath, but binding to the death."

Translator—"I give my word of honor to do it with God's help." What is the characteristic of Mess. Lethierry, the owner of Derobette, Hugo's hero, being a "one-faring" man, is somewhat wanting in reverence. When making any oath which he considered a solemn bond upon his own honor he was, writes Hugo, in the habit of saying: "J'en donne ma parole d'honneur au bon Dieu." "I give my word of honor to the good God. An oath, if you will, an irreverent oath, but binding to the death."

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## The Pearl Fisheries of the Persian Gulf.

Colonel FELL has made a report to the Government of Bombay on the pearl fisheries of the Persian Gulf. He says:

The pearl oyster beds extend at intervals almost along the entire length of the Arabian coast of the Gulf, from a little below the port of Rasool to the northward down to the neighborhood of Rasool-Khaimah, southward. There are also some beds near Ka'arak and at other points on the Persian coast line, but these latter are of comparatively little account as being far less extensive, less prolific, and less valuable. The beds along the Arabian coast are held to be the property of the Arabs in common; for instance, an Arab of Koweit may dive along the Bahrein or Rasool-Khaimah coast and *vice versa*. But no person other than the Coast Arabs is considered to have any right of diving; and it is not allowed to create a general interest among the Bahrein. They are found at all depths, from a little below high water mark down to three, seven, twelve, seventeen and eighteen fathoms. It is probable that there are beds at a much greater depth than these, but as it is supposed, it is the fact that there are beds in the inlets of the Musandam promontory, these beds must have a depth of twenty-two or twenty-five fathoms.

It is held as a rule that the lustre of the pearl depends on the depth of the water—the greater the depth, the greater the lustre. There does not seem to be any known law governing the more or less perfect sphericity of the pearl. The best oyster beds are said to be level, and formed of fine white sand overlaid by the green mud of the sea. Being acquainted with the nature of the clear water, and is considered to be detrimental to the pearl, and the beds having this defect are liable to exhaustion. It is to this cause that the Arabs of Bahrein attribute the exhaustion of the pearl beds on the coast of Seebah and Ceylon; while the beds of the Persian Gulf, although annually fished from the earliest historic periods, continue prolific as ever—one or two of the most recent past years having given a more than usually abundant return.

The notion that the Arabs feed their oyster-beds with artificial seasons of the year seems to be erroneous. No care whatever is taken of the beds. The oysters swell about over the sand or slightly attach themselves by the hinge to bits of seaweed or coral, and are discerned by the divers from their boats in groups below the clear water. The diving period is from the warm spring in April to the end of the hot summer months of August and September. There may be from four thousand to five thousand fishing-boats along the entire coast, each boat containing from ten, twenty to thirty men. Of the above number, the boats of some of the hands may belong to Bahrein. A few of these boats may reap independently the fruits of their own labors, but the great majority are in the hands of agents of pearl merchants, whether Hindoo or other, who reside in the towns of the littoral. These agents make advances of money to the divers for the non-diving season, and when the spring comes on the boats are supplied with so many days' dates, rice, and other provisions, and start away for the banks, returning as provisions fail or weather compels. Hundreds of boats may be seen anchored at a time on the banks.

As a rule the diving may be in water of four to seven fathoms in depth. Fifteen fathoms a diving is considered extremely prejudicial to longevity, and occasionally proves fatal. In any case the crew is told off into divers and rope-holders, and the former diving, while the latter keep the boat steady, and when the spring comes on the boats are supplied with so many days' dates, rice, and other provisions, and start away for the banks, returning as provisions fail or weather compels. Hundreds of boats may be seen anchored at a time on the banks.

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quaintance of his celebrated, charming nephew, and that he had the honor to pay four hundred pounds to him." The pipe dropped from the old banker's mouth, he ran up and down the room, cursing at Heine and Rothchild; at last he went to the post's mouth, where he lectured on the total depravity of her son. She wrote the dear boy by return of post, but neither her letter nor his uncle's anger troubled him. One passage in his letter was substantially as follows: "Old people have their caprices; what my uncle gave in a fit of good humor he might take back in ill humor. I had better make sure. Who knows but in his next letter he might have written to Rothchild that the letter of credit was only a mere form; there are enough examples of this sort in the annals of rich bankers' offices. Indeed, my dear mother, men must always make sure; would uncle have become so fond of me if he had always made sure?" On Heine's return to Hamburg there was, of course, a sermon, to which he listened in silence; when he was finished he said: "T best thing about you, uncle, is that you bear my name," and immediately left the room. They soon made up again, and to the old banker's credit, the pipe which Heine, poet, had no better friend than Solomon Heine, banker.

## COMMERCIAL.

Exports. LIVERPOOL—Per ship Hudson—113 bales S 1 and 3665 bales Upland Cotton.

The Charleston Cotton Market. On Monday afternoon some 60 bales of Cotton were disposed of at 30¢ per lb. for Strict Middling Cotton. Yesterday about 150 bales were sold, the decline of 1¢ per lb. on the better grades which took place on the previous day having been maintained, and in the lower qualities a falling off in price of 2¢ per lb. occurred.

Augusta Market. AUGUSTA, May 29.—Cotton.—Early in the day there was a good demand, which at a late hour was greatly moderated. We quote Middling 35½; Strict Middling 36½; Good Middling 36¢.

Columbus Market. COLUMBUS, May 27.—Cotton.—Our market was quietest last week by advancing prices in New York and New Orleans, in the face of unfavorable reports from Liverpool, and more activity was manifested at higher rates. The quotations for Friday and Saturday were 30¢ for Middling, Receipts still very light, and stock on hand still about 6000 bales.

Mobile Market. MOBILE, May 29.—Cotton.—The market opened quiet this morning, and the chief sales were made before 12 o'clock, on a basis of 35¢, but later in the day—after receipt of New York advices of noon to-day—a brisk demand sprang up, and outside figures were made in some instances. The transactions of the day foot up 1400 bales, the market closing firm at 35¢ to 36¢ for Middling. The Press dispatch from New York at noon to-day quotes Cotton at 35¢ for Middling. Receipts still very light, and stock on hand still about 6000 bales.

New Orleans Market. NEW ORLEANS, May 29.—Cotton.—There has been a very steady demand for the leading staple to-day, which would doubtless have resulted in heavy sales but for the restricted character of the supply and the unusual emergency in prices. Transactions, nevertheless, amounted to 2700 bales, which were taken by 12 buyers, who represented the English, French, Spanish, and Northern markets, the principal movement having been for the New England mills. Prices have not undergone any notable alteration since our last, but they continue very firm, and in order to fairly represent the market at the close of business this evening, we find it necessary to contract our quotations as follows: Middling, 35½; Strict Middling, 36½; Good Middling, 36¢.

STATEMENT OF COTTON. Stock on hand Sept. 1st, 1865..... 1,013 Received since yesterday..... 32,287 Received previously..... 704,162 706,175 Exported since yesterday..... 2,098 Exported previously..... 622,262 624,260 Stock on hand and on shipboard not cleared..... 146,162

THE EXPORTS ARE FOR HAVRE EXCLUSIVELY. SOLE AGENTS.—The receipts from the Coast since yesterday, amount to only 15 bales of Sugar; no Molasses. The stock of Louisiana Sugar and Molasses on hand is limited, while foreign is plenty, but with little or no demand for either, and the little amount that was exhibited yesterday has been entirely absorbed. There were no sales to-day, but we continue our quotations as follows: 12 to 13¢ for common to good common Louisiana; 14½ to 15½¢ for fair to fair good Louisiana; 16 to 17¢ for choice, and 18 to 19¢ for extra. There was nothing done in Molasses to-day. Yesterday, not previously reported, 60 boxes No. 14 Cuba Sugar sold at 13½¢; and a cargo of 117 hds. at 14¢ and 10 bbls of Muscovado Molasses on private terms.

FRUIT.—The market is still very quiet and prices are dropping. The supply on hand is ample, but even the higher grades of fruit are not in demand. Sales are confined to 950 bbls, of which 50 bbls extra at \$12 50 per bbl; 100 and 150 lb extra at \$11; 100 do at \$10; 400 do on private terms, and 100 superfine at \$9 25 per bbl.

COALS.—There is a fair supply on hand with a moderate demand, and we notice a further decline of 5¢ per bushel for yellow. The sales to-day amount to 20,300 bushels, of which 20,000 were for export, and 300 for local use. Sold by one party at 85¢ for yellow and yellow mixed, and 80¢ for white, and 800 white at 85¢ per bushel.

RAILS.—Are in active demand, and prices are firm with an upward tendency. The supply and demand are limited, and sales were restricted to 1400 rails, of which 600 and 700 at 55¢ and 200 at 57¢ per bushel.

BURN—Is quiet, while the supply on hand is more than sufficient for demand, which is altogether of a local character. Prices remain as at our previous quotations, viz: \$1 20 per 100 lbs.

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## Memphis Market.

MEMPHIS, May 25.—Cotton.—The inquiry was very active, and New York reports showing that prices were still advancing, a very active business was done. The noon dispatch reported: Gold 17½; Cotton in good demand; prices tending upward—40 to 45¢. The Press dispatches quoted still higher, and private advices favored as high as 45¢ for Middling. Rates consequently advanced, but with some irregularity. A lot of 210 bales, classing Middling, brought 35¢. The market closed buoyant, and with prices looking still upward. The following is a summary of the sales reported to us: 17 bales at 35¢, 20 at 25½, 32 at 25, and 9 at 25½; Good Ordinary: 64 at 31 and 72 at 32, Low Middling: 132 at 33, 113 at 33½, 129 at 34, 85 at 36½, and 210 at 35; Middling: 169 Strict Middling: 15 at 35, Good Middling: 27 at 35½; Good Ordinary: 29 at 35½; Low Middling: 31 at 35½; Middling: 33 at 35½; Good Middling: 35 at 35½; Good Middling: 37 at 35½.

## Wilmington Market.

WILMINGTON, May 28.—Turpentine.—Has further advanced, and we quote sales of 220 bbls at \$2 25 for new virgin, \$3 25 for yellow dip, and \$1 62½ for hard, per 280 lbs.

ROBIN—Sales of 134 bbls at \$5 for opague, and \$3 for pale, per bbl of 280 lbs.

Consignees per Northeastern Railroad, May 28. 204 bales Cotton, 146 bbls Naval Stores, car Stock, bundles Leather, Mdx, &c. To Lee & Spencer, G W Williams & Co, W O Bennett & Co, Screven & Nease, J D Kirkpatrick, Gonzales, Woodward & Co, Adams, Frost & Co, J Cantwell & Co, W K Ryan, J M Caldwell & Son, J H Baggett & Co, O Reeder, E H Rodgers & Co, Holmes & Stonely, L Seal, J O Bradley, G E Pritchett, S Houtch Duke & Co, Willis & Chalmers, J Campbell.

## PORT CALENDAR.

PHASES OF THE MOON. Last Q. 7th, 4h. 22m. even [First Q. 21st, 4h. 38m. morn New M. 14th, 9h. 35m. morn Full M. 29th, 7h. 58m. morn

DAY	MAY.	RISES.	SETS.	MOON RISES.	HIGH WATER.
28 Monday	4.55	6.59	4.28	8.42	7.22
29 Tuesday	4.45	6.48	5.0	8.30	7.22
30 Wednesday	4.34	6.37	5.7	8.18	8.4
31 Thursday	4.24	6.26	6.4	8.06	8.46
1 Friday	4.14	6.15	7.1	7.54	9.24
2 Saturday	4.04	6.04	7.8	7.42	10.16
3 Sunday	3.53	5.53	8.5	7.30	10.48

## MARINE NEWS.

### PORT OF CHARLESTON.

Arrived Yesterday. [May 29] Schr D S Williams (3-masted), Letts, New York, via Hampton Roads, 8 days. Corn, Hay and Mdx. To W H M Butler, J A Sams & Co, J & J D Kirkpatrick, C Schumann, and Order.

Cleared Yesterday. [May 29] Ship Hudson, Denkin, Baltimore—Willis & Chalmers. Ship Hazard, Potter, Liverpool—Willis & Chalmers. Ship Hazard, Cottrell, Wilmington, N C—E Hertz & Co.

Went to Sea Yesterday. [May 29] Steamship Kalorama, Denkin, Baltimore. Steamer Dictator, Coxeter, Jacksonville via Savannah and Fernandina. Brig Ambrose Light, Simpson, Wilmington, N C.

## GREAT REDUCTION OF DRESS GOODS.</